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## Justice Dept. Confirms Four U.S. Visits by Barbie

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WASHINGTON—Former Gestapo official Klaus Barbie entered the United States under an assumed name twice in 1969 and twice again in 1970 with the entry visa of a Bolivian government official, according to Justice Department records released Tuesday.

Copies of Immigration and Naturalization Service landing cards showed that Barbie entered this country each time through Miami under the alias of "Klaus Altmann." But the agency's documents did not answer such key question as the purpose of his visits and with whom he met while here.

Unconfirmed reports of Barbie's trips to this country have been reported frequently by various news media.

The records were released as the department announced that its chief Nazi-hunter, Allan A. Ryan Jr., will head an investigation to determine the relationship between Barbie and the U.S. government.

Ryan said a preliminary inquiry that he has been conducting since Feb. 11 turned up no evidence that American officials helped Barbie enter the country. But, at a briefing for reporters at the Justice Department, he stressed that "much remains to be done" to clear up unanswered questions in the Barbie case.

Ryan declined to comment on what his investigation has uncovered regarding allegations that American intelligence officials assisted Barbie in escaping to South America in 1951 from France, where his alleged wartime cruelties earned him the title of the "Butcher of Lyon."

"I don't want to say what our evidence is on that point," he said. But he added, "We have enough to go on that a full investigation is warranted."

The landing cards show that "Klaus Altmann" obtained his visa from the U. S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, and entered through Miami on July 19 and 26, 1969, and twice on Jan. 21, 1970. However, the documents show only that he departed the United States three times—July 27, 1969; Jan. 21, 1970, and Feb. 8, 1970.

The hole in the departure record, which could simply reflect inadequate bookkeeping on the part of the INS, is an indication of the investigative hurdles that Ryan must surmount in his inquiry.

"All we can do is retrieve the available records," Ryan said, adding that there easily could be other documents that did not show up in the INS's check of its records.

Ryan stressed that the purpose of his investigation is to compile a full factual report of Barbie's relationship to the U.S. government and not to seek criminal prosecution. He noted that the statute of limitation covering most federal crimes runs for six years, adding: "I'm not aware of any crime (in this matter) being committed over the last six years."

Ryan's report will go to Atty. Gen. William French Smith. A report also will be released publicly, but classified material will be deleted from that version.

Ryan said he hopes to complete the investigation "in the vicinity of three months." He is taking leave from his regular mission of pursuing ex-Nazis living in the United States on false grounds to head the Barbie inquiry.

Smith, in a written statement, said he has the full assurances of the Defense Department, State Department and CIA that they will cooperate fully with the investigation.

"We have seen enough to convince us that the charges that the United States utilized Barbie for intelligence purposes after World War II and later assisted in his escape to Bolivia cannot be dismissed and that a full investigation would be appropriate," Smith said.

Ryan said "serious consideration" will be given to enlisting French cooperation to interview Barbie, who is now being held in Lyon awaiting trial for eight cases of "crimes against humanity" during World War II.